

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast"

p. 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 35:4-7a

PSALM 146

SECOND LESSON

JAMES 2:1-17

VERSE: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 7:24-37

REFLECTION: Ten years ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America began God's Work, Our Hands Day. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are: one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God's amazing grace comes to us without our deserving or earning God's favor. God loves us and likes us. God does not need our good works. Our neighbor does. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

HYMN #779 ELW
#437 LLC

"Amazing Grace"
"Sublime gracias"

APOSTLES' CREED

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan. and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry. Enliven all who doubt their creative talents.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING of the PEACE

OFFERING *Allelu, Allelu, Allelu Gracias Senor*

HOLY COMMUNION with LORD'S PRAYER **p. 129**

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

HYMN – INSERT **"God's Work Our Hands"**

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship

WEDNESDAY 8:00 p.m. AA

Let us pray for...

Kurt Kusserow, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**

Peter Asplin, Melissa Stoller, **Assistants to the Bishop**

Elizabeth Eaton, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**

President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: George & Debbie K., asylum seekers especially children, Rachel F., Pr. Norm M., Peggy E., Marilyn & Brian H., Rose & Chip, Rita, Pres. Carter, Jim & Judy H., Kirk D., Mason M., Noah, Luca, Karen M., Len & Carole, Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Karen S., Fernando W., Darlene & Al, Lana, Dayton, Jeffery, Don W., Mindy, Marylene, Nancy S., Nancy, Aligha, Palonis family, Ron R., Zach F., Katie, Ed, Stephanie, Tyler C., Sandra, Sandi, Carol, Misael, & all with flu, RSV, COVID and unknown illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: Rev. Vic Peischl; Shawn Malloy; Fr. Frank Almade

NURSING HOME / ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Beatty Point) June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Evelyn Rae Dodson (Harmarville Village); Georgetta Colton (Seneca Place).

CAREGIVERS: Annie T., Judy M., Chris, Chip, Rebecca, Darlene.

HOUSING NEEDS: Diorgho, Leilani.

EMPLOYMENT: Derrick, Yinke, Yelisbeth, Cassie, Amanda, Tyler.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Panama

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Zion Penn Hills

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Lutheran Campus Ministry

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Beechwood Elementary

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Psalm: Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

¹Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**
⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as

yourself.”⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”